

WHY I CHOSE TO RUN

REV. ELTON T. BYRD'S STATEMENT OF WHY HE IS RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT OF THE N.A.A.C.P AND, SUPPORTING THE ELECTION OF THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS.

BOB COTTLE

GARY HARRIS

DONALD BRADLEY

BURNEY ADAMS SUSIE MAGEE

I am running for the presidency of the N.A.A.C.P because I am convinced that the present leadership has demonstrated an insensitivity to Black womanhood, and a lack of concern towards events and issues that are important to the people of the city of Newark.

College of Medicine and Dentistry

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, UMDNJ, is the largest single employer in the city of Newark, and as such must be free of all questions of discrimination in it's hiring and promotional policies. In response to an unusual amount of complaints from within and without of this institution the Newark City Council found it appropriate to hold public hearings on the charges leveled against UMDNJ. Expert witnesses of all persuasions came forward to testify to the immenseness of the prejudicial activity in this institution. The total contribution to this effort to win jobs and decent treatment for Blacks and Hispanics by the present leadership of the N.A.A.C.P has been to send to observers to the hearings, and to hold a private meeting with a member of the UMDNJ staff who does not have the power to begin to address the question. It is crystal clear that the present administration is not interested in the problems of the people of our city, but in serving the interests of a small middle class clique that fancies themselves as ordained to lead the ignorant masses.

Attacks On Black Womanhood

During the period of the nominations for officers for the Newark Branch the President conducted himself in a way that makes one question his understanding of the importance of upholding the dignity of Black

Womanhood, or for that matter as a role model for black manhood. I am referring to the situation where Carol Clarke a young Black woman was nominated for secretary, and was publicly degraded by Jones because she had joined the Rahway N.A.A.C.P, and had not transferred her membership to the Newark Branch in time to meet the 30 day deadline. Regardless of the merits of the young woman's case the situation could have been handled in a more delicate way through a committee, rather than by public admonishment of a person who was only trying to be involved.

In addition to his attack on Ms. Clarke, Keith engineered the dubious removal of Mrs Wilnora Holman, a senior citizen with a long and distinguished career of service in our community, on the grounds that she was a lifetime member in the Irvington Branch. Such an affront to Black woman of stature who was only desirous of helping to build our branch is absolutely a disgrace to our organization.

Jones insatiable hunger for power led him to launch an assault on the former State President while she was in the hospital sick and defenseless, once again indicating his lack of manliness and his disregard for fair play.

The case of Susie Magee

Last but not least Keith and his motley crew asked Susie Magee a long time member to serve on the executive board. Ms. Magee has always been one of the top recruiters of the Newark branch, and she outdid herself this time bringing in some 450 members. Keith became incensed because he decided that the new members were not in his corner kicked Ms. Magee off his slate.

This kind of leadership can only hurt our chapter. I urge you to strike a blow for a new and positive N.A.A.C.P by electing me and my slate.

Sincerely yours,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Elton T. Byrd".

Rev. Elton T. Byrd



A BRIEF HISTORY OF DR. ELTON BYRD'S ACTIVITY IN THE CITY OF NEWARK

In February of 1975 Dr. Byrd was called to serve as Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of the city of Newark. Under his leadership the Building Fund Youth Department, and the Mass Choir were organized. December 17th, the ground breaking for the Educational Center took place. During the period of his pastorship there was a marked growth of the church numerically as well as spiritually.

Dr. Byrd's intense interest in furthering the education of the youth of our city led the Mayor of Newark, Kenneth A. Gibson to appoint him to the Newark Board of Education where he served with notable distinction for three years. He extended his activities of this general period to include service on the Essex County Committee of Black Churchmen, and the Newark Health Advisory Council.

In May of 1982, Dr. Byrd along with a group of supporters, who had witnessed his exceptional organizational abilities during his pastorship at the Abyssinian Baptist Church, organized the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. From a meager beginning of 300 members, Fellowship has grown until it now has over 2,000 members in it's ranks. This a truly remarkable example of building a church on love. Fellowship has purchased a church home on Elizabeth Ave. in Newark, and continues to grow and serve the people.

Dr. Byrd is currently serving as a member of the Essex County Vocational

School Board, a position which allows him to continue fighting to equip our children with the skills to break the cycle of poverty and drugs that often wipes out their opportunity to take their rightful place in our society.

Dr. Byrd came to Newark from Newport News, Virginia where he served as pastor of the Second Baptist Church for seven years. He was elected President of the Tydewater Peninsula Baptist Sunday School Alliance. In addition, Dr. Byrd was VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NEWPORT NEWS CHAPTER OF THE N.A.A.C.P.

Dr. Byrd received his public education in Panama City, Florida, and his Bachelor of Arts and Masters Degree from South Eastern University in Greenville, South Carolina. He was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Teamers Theological Seminary. He served in the armed forces of our nation for nine years.

Dr. Byrd is the son of late Mr. William A. Byrd and the late Mrs. Olivia Byrd of Panama City, Florida. He is married to the former Louberta Banks, a musician of note. Dr. and Mrs. Byrd are the proud parents of Ms Eltonette Dionne Byrd.

DR. BYRD IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO GIVE NEW AND MEANINGFUL LEADERSHIP TO OUR FLOUNDERING CHAPTER OF THE N.A.A.C.P. AND HE SEEKS YOUR SUPPORT IN THE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT THE TERRACE BALLROOM ON BROAD STREET IN NEWARK.

ELECT REV. ELTON T. BYRD PRESIDENT AND VOTE FOR HIS SLATE

BOB COTTLE	BOARD MEMBER
GARY HARRIS	BOARD MEMBER
DONALD BRADLEY	BOARD MEMBER
BURNEY ADAMS	BOARD MEMBER